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8 November 1965

Executive Registry

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with USIA Director Leonard Marks on
Radio Study Group

25X1 1. [] and I met with Mr. Marks at 4:30 P.M. on 5 November 1965 to discuss how to proceed with the radio study group Mr. McGeorge Bundy has instructed us to set up to consider our China Radio proposal and the relative performance of RFE, RL and VOA in their respective target areas.

25X1 2. Mr. Marks readily accepted our two nominees, [] and [] and agreed with us that it was desirable to keep the group small. He felt that the question of a chairman for the group should be deferred until it met and the group itself could then decide whether it wished one of its members to perform as chairman. We accepted this view.

3. Mr. Marks accepted our proposal that the group meet in the CIA building and said that he felt it was very important to observe good security procedures. He agreed to assign one USIA senior officer as coordinator for the group on all matters concerning USIA/VOA and point of contact for ourselves but said that he wanted to take a few days to decide yet exactly who it would be. He read through our "Terms of Reference" paper hurriedly, said he felt it looked good but wished to read it more carefully over the weekend and would let us know if he had any changes to suggest.

4. We agreed that we would go ahead and contact our two nominees for the group and he would contact his. Tentatively we would schedule a meeting of the full group for 19 November 1965. I mentioned that our Director wanted the group to see the radios [] Mr. Marks suggested that we work out a time-table for them at the first meeting. I said we hoped they could finish their work by 1 January 1966. He agreed that we should aim to have them finish their work as soon as possible. 25X1

5. Mr. Marks asked whether we had recently had enquiries of any sort from VOA head John Chancellor. I said that we had promised to give him a general briefing, as we had done with previous VOA chiefs, because

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there were areas of mutual concern and regular consultation in respect to the radios. We felt relations were good, wanted to keep them that way and thought that a good briefing would give Mr. Chancellor a clearer understanding of any problems that might arise. Mr. Marks said that he did not want Mr. Chancellor to have independent relations with CIA or any other government agency, that he was running USIA in a taut manner and he wanted each of his major subordinates to have a clear idea of where his responsibilities began and ended. He wished to confine relations with CIA to himself and his two senior policy people, Messrs. Anderson and Ryan. He agreed, he said in conclusion, that Mr. Chancellor should have the benefit of a one-time general briefing from CIA but he asked that when we were ready to do it we lay it on through him and said that he and Chancellor would come together.






6. As we left, Mr. Marks said that he felt we were now very much on the right track with our outside experts' panel and had a wonderful selection of people. He had felt very depressed last weekend, he said, after the inconclusive 303 Committee meeting, but now he thought we were in a position to clear the air and find out where we should go.

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Chief
Covert Action Staff

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